

a position of great responsibility distinguished themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the National Guard Association of the United States.

To fully comprehend the magnitude of this honor, it is important to note the criteria for the selection of the Patrick Henry Award. Superior performance of normal duty alone does not justify award of this honor. An individual must have provided exceptionally strong support for the National Guard such that the readiness and the future of the National Guard must have been positively impacted.

Christopher has provided a tremendous service to our Nation's military, as the United States continues to wage a war on terrorism in this post-9/11 era. Additionally, he has demonstrated a remarkable amount of enthusiasm for ensuring that the Armed Forces and National Guard have the readiness capabilities to defend our country. The assistance he has provided the National Guard will not be easily matched; however, for Christopher this level of dedication is par for the course.

I applaud the National Guard Association of the United States for recognizing Christopher's behind-the-scenes work to increase National Guard funding and champion projects of special interest to the Guard. Christopher also strives to provide the legislative tools necessary to give soldiers and airmen the best support available. He has worked hard on these issues—each time jumping in feet first, soaking up knowledge, and moving legislation forward in this often complicated process.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Christopher K. Bradish for his receipt of the Patrick Henry Award and his leadership on behalf of the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, and the National Guard Association of the United States.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS ON IRAN

Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I wish to speak on the latest round of United Nations Security Council sanctions on Iran.

This past Monday, the Security Council voted 14 to 0 to increase sanctions on Iran in response to its continued enrichment of uranium. I applaud the United Nations for pursuing the diplomacy necessary to avoid hostilities. The vote was another step on the long diplomatic path toward increasing stability in the Middle East, but more remains to be done. Among other measures, these sanctions are important in restricting the travel and freezing the assets of certain Iranian officials and banks. The U.N. is now following the American lead in taking action against banks like Bank Melli which are deeply involved financially with the Iranian Government and its nuclear program.

The near unanimity shown by members of the Security Council, including

the five veto-holding countries, was a strong and unmistakable signal of the international community's condemnation of Iranian policies. That signal would be even stronger if the Security Council members—and Russia and China in particular—would take further economic measures, including against Iran's energy sector. These countries need to realize that a nuclear-armed Iran does not just threaten the United States or the West but indeed the entire Middle East, the nuclear nonproliferation regime, and potentially the world. The very idea of a nuclear Iran is chilling.

In March of last year, Senator DURBIN and I introduced the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, a bill outlining steps the United States and its allies should take to prevent Iran from continuing its nuclear program. I am pleased that this legislation currently has 69 cosponsors, and the Bush administration has taken many of the measures I suggested. Other nations, particularly our European allies, should follow the United States in using additional sanctions to supplement the actions of the Security Council. The international community particularly needs the cooperation of states which actively do business with Iran to draw down that business, in addition to holding key Iranian leaders personally responsible.

Some of the foreign countries which engage Iran economically have been cooperative in reducing the extent of that cooperation, like Germany, which is steadily decreasing the export credits granted to investments in Iran. Others have been far more recalcitrant, especially Russia, which continues to provide nuclear and military assistance to Tehran. This cooperation, under the circumstances, is unacceptable.

The diplomacy of the United States and the United Nations must continue to intensify until Iran verifiably agrees to forego its nuclear ambitions. Until that day, and until Iran's political leaders decide they have more to gain from cooperation than from conflict, the sanctions enacted today and others like them will continue.

EQUAL CARE FOR ARMED FORCES

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to an important piece of legislation to secure equal care for members of the armed services who suffer from a mental illness. I am pleased to have my colleagues Senators EVAN BAYH and BILL NELSON joining me in this cause by serving as original cosponsors of this bill, the Travel Assistance for Family Members of our Troops Act of 2008.

There is no greater obligation than caring for those who have served this country through their military service. We would be remiss if we did not ensure that the health care of our heroes in arms is the finest medicine has to offer.

What we now refer to as post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, was once

described as "soldier's heart" in the Civil War, "shell shock" in World War I, and "combat fatigue" in World War II. Whatever the name, they are serious mental illnesses and deserve equal attention and care as a physical wound.

In recent reports, we have heard that 20 to 40 service men and women are evacuated each month from Iraq due to mental health problems. In addition to those who are identified, there are many more who will return home after their service to face readjustment challenges. Some will need appropriate mental health care to help them adjust back to "normal" life, while others will need medical assistance to heal more serious PTSD issues. Yet others will need help to mentally cope with their physical wounds.

So many of our veterans from previous conflicts, such as World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, needed similar programs once they returned home. Yet I fear that we didn't do enough to help them. With proper and early support systems in place, including support of their families, we can work to prevent the more serious and chronic mental health issues that come from a lack of intervention.

The legislation I am introducing today will provide support for family members of our uniformed service men and women receiving inpatient treatment for serious psychiatric conditions. Right now, the Department of Defense does not classify Active-Duty servicemembers receiving treatment for mental illnesses as "Very Seriously Ill" or "Seriously Ill."

Therefore, under current policy, family members are not eligible to receive the same travel allowances as patients being treated for physical injuries.

This bill will eliminate the current disparity in treatment against our country's men and women who are bravely serving in the armed services. We have already taken legislative steps through the Defense reauthorization bill to begin to address needed improvements in the quality of health care, both from mental and physical injuries. This bill is another important piece in that process.

Travel Assistance for Family Members of our Troops Act of 2008 ensures that patients with serious mental impairments can spend time with their family—the same treatment we currently are providing to patients with physical injuries requiring inpatient care.

We urge our colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE MINNEAPOLIS EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I wish to recognize the Minneapolis Emergency Communications Center, which is being honored today as the Nation's Outstanding Call Center.